

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 3**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2004-055**  
**DATE: August 27, 2004 Time 5:00 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Continuation of Severe Summer Storms Late August of 2004** - Localized thunderstorms have initiated tornadoes and created conditions destroying property, injuring and, in some cases, killing livestock and causing power outages. An early summer frost had significant impact on crops.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** During the 8/23/04 thunderstorm in west central North Dakota, four people were treated for minor injuries and released in Bismarck.
3. **DAMAGES:** A severe thunderstorm crossed west central North Dakota on the evening of 8/23/04, producing high winds, heavy rain, hail and lightning. On 8/19/04 -- 8/20/04, unseasonably low temperatures produced an early frost, creating significant crop damage. Counties throughout the state have also experienced damage from localized storms during the past 40 days.

**BURLEIGH COUNTY:** A severe thunderstorm on 8/23/04 produced a downpour of rain, causing street flooding in Bismarck, almost immediately blocking several major arteries. Additional traffic problems resulted due to downed trees and power lines and when manholes were removed via rain. In addition, the Bismarck area experienced power outages, downed streetlights and considerable street and low-lying area flooding. There was heavy damage to trees along the Missouri River westward to Washington Street. Heaviest damage occurred along the trails and Sertoma Park. Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU) officials reported 5,000 customers were without power for one-half hour, 2,500 to 3,500 customers for one hour and 2,500 customers for more than one hour. The State Capitol lost power as well. All power was restored. An estimated one dozen large transmission line poles were destroyed. The National Weather Service (NWS) reported up to two-inch diameter hail, winds in excess of 55 mph and 1.4 inches of rain.

**EDDY COUNTY:** Percent of crop loss due to frost damage ranged from 15 percent for sunflowers, 30 percent soybeans and 100 percent for corn. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Local Emergency Board reported conditions impacted a total of 74,134 acres on 550 farms.

EMMONS COUNTY: Frost conditions on 8/19/04 impacted 40,000 acres on 250 farms. Percent of loss ranged from 15 for sunflowers, 30 percent for soybeans and 100 percent for corn.

FOSTER COUNTY: Agricultural officials reported 137,643 acres on 660 farms experienced crop damage on 8/20/04 due to frost, ranging from 10 percent for sunflowers, 20 percent for silage corn, 35 percent for both grain corn and soy beans crops and 80 percent for pinto beans.

GRAND FORKS COUNTY: On 8/20/04 frost damaged 391,600 acres ranging from five to 25 percent for corn, soybeans, edible beans, sunflowers, sugar beets and potatoes.

GRIGGS COUNTY: An 8/2/04 report from the Emergency Manager indicated a hail storm and high winds, beginning in Bryon Township and proceeding southeast to Kamak in Broadview Township, impacted 53,581 acres. There was limited damage to farm structures, machinery and equipment. Damage to 58,880 acres on 59 farms occurred throughout the county following frost conditions in mid-August, in particular the Sheyenne Valley and the northern and southern areas.

HETTINGER COUNTY: On 8/23/04, an area north of Mott received marble to pea size hail with strong winds of up to 50 miles per hour. Crops in the hail path were destroyed or damaged. From Mott, north to the county border, rainfall ranged from 0.25 to 0.90 inches. Regent received 0.55 inches of rain. Six miles south of Regent, marble to pea size hail and strong winds damaged crops and some farmers reported damage to houses and farm buildings. The New England area received hard rain for approximately 15 minutes.

KIDDER COUNTY: A report from the Emergency Manager on 8/25/04 indicated hail, ranging from pea to golf ball in size, damaged trees, homes, vehicles, gardens and crops. Heavy rains, of up to two inches, were reported in the Steele area. An area south of Pettibone received up to four inches of rain. Many of the city drains were unable to keep up with the heavy rainfall and runoff overflowed curbs and filled window wells.

McINTOSH COUNTY: A 7/22/04 report from the Emergency Manager detailed hail damage to crops, roofs blown off buildings, and grain bins blown away from farm sites. Some crops were totally destroyed west of Wishek. A property owner indicated it hailed non-stop for 45 minutes, first pea size and then quarter size. Several producers west of Wishek had some loss to crops and buildings. In the City of Wishek, there was minor damage to trees.

MORTON COUNTY: Glen Ullin – On 8/23/04, a thunderstorm created winds of 40-50 miles per hour, nickel to quarter size hail, and up to 1.5 inches of rain. New Salem – The thunderstorm produced heavy rains of up to one inch and nickel to golf ball size hail. The ground was covered with hail in some areas and there is severe hail damage to gardens and crops. Mandan – The area experienced high winds, heavy rains of up to 1.5 inches, and golf ball size hail. The storm resulted in flooding of streets and underpasses, downed trees and power lines, power and telephone outages and stalled vehicles. A semi truck was blown over into the ditch on I-94. The basement apartment of a house was flooded. Additional reports indicated dime to quarter size hail and a funnel cloud over Lake Tschida.

MOUNTRAIL COUNTY: On 8/20/04 frost damaged up to 30,600 acres on 200 farms ranged. Impacted crops included wheat, sunflowers, corn and buckwheat.

NELSON COUNTY: Wide spread frost on 8/20/04 throughout the county damaged dry edible beans, corn and soybeans. A hail storm damaged 10 to 80 percent of unharvested small grains and row crops.

PEMBINA COUNTY: During the week of 8/15/04, the area received one to three inches of rain. On 8/20/04, many areas in the county received a crop-damaging frost. On 8/25/04, about one inch of rain fell. Frost damage is becoming more apparent as damaged areas are drying and browning out. Township roads are again saturated and there is concern when harvest is underway the heavy truck traffic will cause damage.

RICHLAND COUNTY: The County Emergency Manager reported a 7/23/04 storm passed through the south end of the county, leaving extensive crop damage. The storm produced hail and strong straight line winds.

STEELE COUNTY: The Sheyenne Valley lowland and northern crops were impacted on 280 farms due to frost created by low temperatures in mid-August.

STUTSMAN COUNTY: Frost on 8/19/04 through 8/21/04 impacted a total of 47,238 acres with percent of loss ranging from 5 to 15 percent for dry bean, corn, sunflowers and soybeans.

TRAILL COUNTY: In August, a total of 51,710 acres were impacted by frost on 934 farms with percent of loss ranging from 5 to 50 percent for dry beans, soybeans, potatoes and sunflowers.

WALSH COUNTY: Frost conditions on 8/20/04 impacted 140,300 acres of edible beans, soybeans, corn, sunflowers and wheat on 891 farms. Percent of loss ranged from 5 to 45 percent.

#### 4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: In addition to previous reports, city and county public works and forestry teams responded for clean up, following storms.

STATE: No change from the previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from the previous reports.

#### 5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: On 8/24/04, the American Red Cross (ARC) was contacted to provide relief to residents of a flooded basement apartment in Mandan.

Following the 7/19/04 tornado, the ARC provided assistance to workers cleaning up debris in Cass County on 7/20/04 – 7/22/04.

The ARC provided immediate emergency assistance to the families on a farmstead near Marion on 7/19/04 where homes and buildings were destroyed by an F-4 tornado in Barnes County. In addition, the ARC provided bottled water to approximately 130 volunteers throughout the day. On 7/20/04, the ARC supplied coffee and doughnuts on site for volunteers as well as bottled water.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor John Hoeven and a delegation of agriculture producers from across the state met on 7/22/04 in Washington D.C. with White House and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials to press for additional aid to North Dakota farmers and ranchers suffering weather-related losses.

Governor Hoeven on 8/25/04 toured farmland in Pembina and Cavalier counties to assess damage to crops in northeastern North Dakota from frost and cool weather. Following the tour, the Governor met with farmers at a farmstead near Walhalla. Hoeven is working with other Midwestern and Western governors, as well as the state's congressional delegation, to advance disaster aid legislation in Washington.

City and county public works and forestry crews throughout the state responded to cleanup efforts following storms.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No outside assistance has been requested.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: Power companies sent teams to repair lines and restore power in the Bismarck area following the 8/24/04 storm.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director